

# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota*

### *Office of the Governor*

*Whereas*, The dedication, courage, tenacity, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit of small business men and women in South Dakota keep the American dream alive and the American economy growing stronger; and,

*Whereas*, Small businesses are the very heart of the economy of South Dakota and are a vital part of achieving the goals of South Dakota's 2010 Initiative, a series of goals for economic growth and visitor spending in our state. Small businesses employ 62.4 percent of our state's nonfarm private sector workers and make up 96.8 percent of our employers. Daily, small businesses drive innovation, redefine excellence and start new paths to prosperity; and,

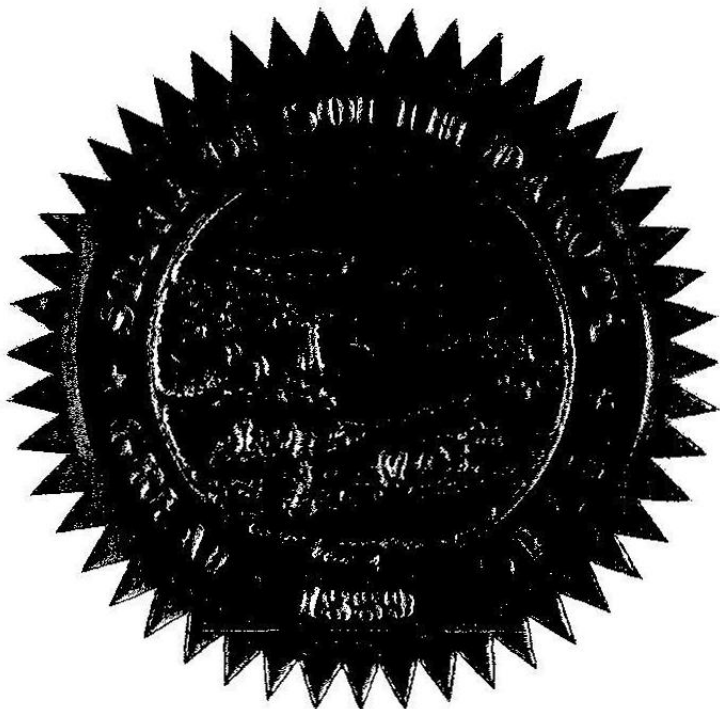
*Whereas*, South Dakota is seeing an unprecedented era of opportunity and growth – our unemployment rate is lower than the national average, our labor force is strong and we are reaching our aggressive goals to increase the gross state product. South Dakota ranks as one of the best places to do business and is a place where small businesses can grow and thrive; and,

*Whereas*, Small business owners and employees add to the vitality of our economy and inspire others to realize the full promise of our nation:

*Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds*, Governor of the state of South Dakota, join all Americans in celebrating the entrepreneurial spirit and hard work of our small business owners and employees and do hereby proclaim April 9-15, 2006, as

## *SMALL BUSINESS WEEK*

in South Dakota, and I call upon citizens to observe this week and celebrate the achievements of small business owners and their employees and encourage and foster the development of new small businesses.



*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-fourth Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

*M. Michael Rounds*  
M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

*Chris Nelson*  
Chris Nelson, Secretary of State